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the lack of certain groups of animals is apparently due to the fact that they did not exist at all at the time when there was a connection of these parts with others.

But we need further investigations on this subject, and it is not advisable to express at present a definite opinion on this topic. Hedley's paper gives one solution of the problem, and, indeed, his arguments are very important, and his theory may finally prove to be correct, at least to be the most probable.

A. E. O.

**The Distribution of the Opilionidæ.** — Dr. J. C. C. Loman<sup>1</sup> has published a synopsis of the facts known about the distribution of the Opilionidæ, illustrated by four maps. It is hardly necessary to discuss the paper in detail, as the author intended simply to give the facts, without giving an explanation of them. We should like, however, to call attention to certain features of the distribution of these animals which seem to furnish additional evidence in favor of von Ihering's theories.

It will be remembered that, according to von Ihering, South America is no zoögeographical unit, but consists of two separate centers of origin; the one is situated in its southern part and was connected at a certain time with the antarctic continent; this is called "Archiplata"; the other one comprises the northern parts of the present South America, and was connected, in Mesozoic times, with West Africa. This Mesozoic continental mass has been called by von Ihering by the name of "Archhelenis."

Now, according to Loman's map (Pl. XI, Fig. 2), the distribution of the Opilionid family, Gonyleptoidæ (expressed in green dots), is in South America and the West Indies on the one side, and in West Africa on the other, and it would seem impossible to explain it in any other way than by accepting von Ihering's Archhelenis theory.

The relations of the southern parts of the present continents to the antarctic continent supposed to have existed formerly are expressed in the distribution of another family of Opilionids, the Triænonychoidæ. As Loman's map (Pl. XI, Fig. 4) indicates (by red dots), this family has been found in South Africa, Madagascar, South Australia, the Fijis, and in Chili. This distribution corresponds closely to that of other antarctic animals.

A. E. O.

<sup>1</sup> Ueber die geographische Verbreitung der Opilioniden, *Zool. Jahrb.*, Abt. f. Syst., Bd. xiii (1900).